

Lack of Rain Brings Minor Drought Conditions

(WCS - 11/2016)

May 24, 2016 – With no rain over the last ten days and less than 30% of normal for the last 30 days, the Rideau River watershed is on the verge of minor drought conditions.

Precipitation measured at Environment Canada climate stations in and around the watershed show that about 80% of normal for the time of year has fallen in the last 90 days. This means that minor drought status has been reached. Municipal watering restrictions could be imposed to limit the volume of water extracted from groundwater and surface water sources. It is recommended that those living in residences served by private systems also reduce their water taking.

Some rain is forecast for the end of the week and through the weekend but the amount presently estimated is unlikely to be sufficient to do more than slow the decline of water levels throughout the watershed.

Streamflows in unregulated watercourses are about half of normal for the time of year and lake levels are declining. The Rideau Canal system is at full navigation level but, if drought conditions deepen, boaters on all lakes will need to keep an eye open for shoals and rocks as levels continue to drop.

RVCA will monitor conditions and will issue further statements as warranted.

-end-

More Information:

contact: Patrick Larson, RVCA Senior Water Resources Technician
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504
ext. 1210 or cell **613-799-9423**

"Rideau Valley Conservation Authority is a partnership of municipalities within the Rideau Valley watershed created under the Conservation Authorities Act to deliver a range of programs in watershed management and natural resource conservation."

RVCA Watershed Conditions Statements:

- *Water Safety – High flows, unstable banks, melting ice or other factors that could be dangerous for recreational users such as anglers, canoeists, hikers, children, pets, etc. Flooding is not expected.*
- *Flood Outlook – Early notice of the potential for flooding based on weather forecasts, calling for heavy rain, snow melt, high winds or other conditions that could lead to high runoff, cause ice jams and/or lakeshore flooding or erosion.*
- *Flood Watch – Flooding is possible in specific watercourses or municipalities. Municipalities, emergency services and individuals in flood prone areas should prepare.*
- *Flood Warning – Flooding is imminent or already occurring in specific watercourses or municipalities.*